(b) the details in respect of each scheme, State-wise;

(c) the additional facilities proposed to be provided to them during 1997 and 1998, and

(d) the names of items manufactured under the said schemes during the last two years and the countries to which these items were exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) This Ministry is implementing a scheme of supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisans. Under the Scheme, Rural Artisans living below the poverty line are to be given improved tools to enable them to enhance the quality/quantity/market-ability of their products and reduce their drudgery.

(b) The scheme of supply of Improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans is a Sub-Scheme of IRDP. Intially, it was launched in selected districts. Later, from 1995-96 it was extended to entire country except UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh. Under this scheme artisans from different crafts except weavers, tailors, needle workers and beedi-workers are provided improved toolkits. The average cost of toolkit is Rs.2000 and the unit cost is to be fixed by DRDA concerned. The artisans are required to contribute 10% of the cost of the toolkits as their contribution with the balance 90% being met as subsidy from the Government of India. The use of power driven toolkits upto the cost of Rs.4500/- has also been permitted under the scheme. Beyond this, it is to be linked to loan under IRDP. At the district level the DRDA is the nodal agency for implementation. The prototypes of improved tools in pottery, carpentry, black smithy, leather work, wood craft, metal craft and lacquerware have been developed by the National Small Industries Corporation, Regional Design and Technical Development Centre under the Development Commissioner, Handicraft and other organisations. If the State Governments feel that better alternatives to improved tools suitable to local conditions are available in their States, they are free to choose those models, subject to the approval by the State Level/District Level/Tasks Force/Technical Committee set up for the purpose.

(c) The following additional facilities are proposed to be provided to the rural artisans during the year 1997-98:

(1) Institutional arrangements for establishing marketing linkage for ensuring higher income to rural artisans.

(2) Supply of literature with graphics and illustrations to the illiterate rural artisans for proper use of Improved Tool-Kits.

(3) Discussion with rural artisans after supply of toolkits about its utility and suitability.

(d) The rural artisans whom the toolkits are supplied are free to manufacture any items of their choice and they are free to sell their products anywhere they like. Information regarding export of such items to other countries is not available.

[English]

Delhi Urban Arts Commission

2744. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether term of the present Delhi Urban Arts Commission is scheduled to end in November, 1996, and

(b) whether any exercise has been done to reconstitute it in such a way as to ensure fulfilment of the objects of the Urban Arts Commission Act, 1973?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The term of the earlier Commission had ended on 25.10.1996. The Delhi Urban Art Commission has been reconstituted for a term of three years with effect from 4.12.1996.

Backlog in Reserved Posts

2745. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Executives from E2 i.e. Engineer to E 8 level i.e. General Manager in NHPC Limited;

(b) the number percentage, and backlog of SC/ST Executives in each of these categories;

(c) whether there exist any prevailing instruction/policy for filling up the backlog in each category of Executives;

(d) if so, whether NHPC could fill up the backlog in each category;

(e) whether any reservation in promotion upto E8 level is being followed in NHPC;

(f) if so, the number of each of the categories have been promoted since May, 1995; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The total number of Executives from E-2 i.e. Engineer/Officer to E-8 i.e. General Manager in NHPC Ltd., as on 31.10.1996 is 1058.